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> REYNOLDS HISTORICAL GENEALOGY COLLECTION









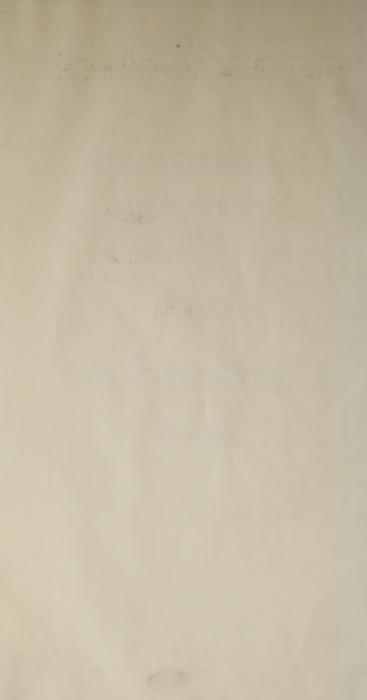
Oroperty of Victor Deterso

Memories
of
old
Carbondale
Iowa

1888



1908



HISTORICAL SKETCH°

of the Existence

of Old

CARBONDALE IOWA

THE COAL MINING COMMUNITY

1888 - 1908

Sponsored by the REUNION COMMITTEE

Compiled and Edited by

WM. A. MATTSON

1825275

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Carbondale

O Carbondale, you always are a cherished spot, Your roads to travel and hills to climb, In memory we've stored a tot, Old friends and sports of different kind.

In Spring your wild flowers we adored; In Summer we picked wild berries to eat; In Fall fished, hunted, gathered nuts and stored; In Winter skated and coasted when we'd meet.

In memory only we now can look, Back to our folks whom we loved so dearly; To school days, Sunday School and books And Xmas programs attended yearly.

In June at Carbondale annually we enjoy to meet For reunion with friends now living in different places; To chat, sing and together eat, With happy looks and smiles on our faces.

We miss dear friends from year to year Who've passed to the Great Beyond; But their memory still lingers with us here When with each other we mingle around

Oh! some day we too must say adieu; We're grateful for memories happy and true; May coming generations celebrate anew As a tribute to former Pioncers too.



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Preface

As we have met in Reunions to relive memories of the old days, and renew acquaintances of friends not seen in many years, we have heard many express a desire for a written history of the old camp. The committee has complied with this desire and hereby submits this brief sketch which we believe will be interesting and refreshing as it opens the mind picture of things and events long forgotten.

Your author is not skilled in the art of book writing, so if errors are found in the composition that is to be expected. Every item herein is written from memory as we had no authentic records to refer to. A span of forty-seven years has erased much from our memory.

The Committee would appreciate very much if you would patronize our advertizers for it was their contributions that made the publication of this book possible. Thanks for your cooperation.

We wish to thank the following: Carl Larson, Archie Day, Chas. Cook, Mrs. B. F. Keeney, Chas. J. Erickson, and others for information used in publishing this book.

The Committee:

Hugh Sloan, President Emil Gustafson

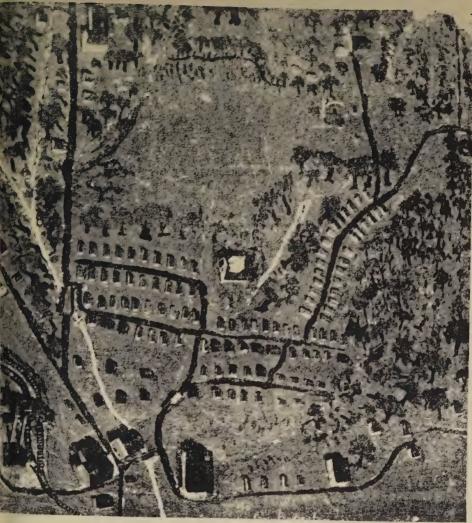
Mrs. Chas. Sheeler, Sec'y Mrs. Raymond Decker

Wm. Gustafson Lelah (Brooks) Morris

Geo. Pierick Wm. Mattson



Bird's Eye View of Carbondale



This picture was taken from a miniature replica made and finished by Oscar Gustafn just a few weeks before his death in February of 1951. Without his many hours of bor and love for old Carbondale this picture would not have been available. We are atteful for his contribution to this book.

To refresh the reader's mind of the Camp as it was in the last days, start at the leftand corner where will be found the old company store and Sweeney's pool hall. To
rear of the store and a little higher up is Mine No. 3; up the road and in the leftand corner at the top will be found the schoolhouse. In the center of the picture the
liding with the white spire is the church. To the rear of Sweeney's pool hall you will
te a white object in the road. This is Jack Cavanaugh and the water wagon. Faintly
be seen in the righthand corner near the top is the old ball diamond. You should
we be able to pick out the house where you lived.



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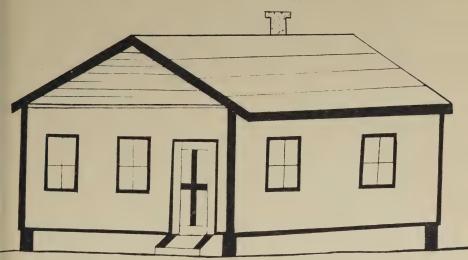
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brick and cement foundations. Often in the mornings the drinking water wuld be a solid block of ice. Never in the life of the camp were the houses painted; only once, were they stained with a dark yellow oil. After ten years, they were much weather beaten. In all, there were approximately 175 houses that rented for \$6.00 and \$8.00 pr month. The reason for the higher rent was that such bouses had an extra room known as a wash shanty. Every Spring the tenants were given 10 pounds of lime to mix with water. This mixture was then painted on the interior walls and was known as "white wash." This solution would paint four rooms and cost 35 cents. Some of the more ritzy families that could afford it, would Luy wallpaper and do their own decorating.



This 4-room house rented for \$6.00 per month. The dimension of each room was 11' x 12', and it rested upon wooden logs instead of brick and cement. No furnace electricity, gas or telephone, yet the people were happy. This drawing was made by Wm Mattson.

In conjunction with the Company's houses, there were the Boarding Houses where single men fived. They were known as: cob Moyer's, Cap Johnson's, Gust Grandquist's and Russian Bill's The men had little to do with the operations, it was their wives that had all the work to do. The price of room, board and laundry was 100 per week. The boarders would sometimes cause a commotica in the houses by marrying the fared girls. Then, like now, a good to safe the marrying the fared girls.

One drawback to the community was the shortage of water of domestic use. There were no wells available, only two small rings, which could only furnish a small amount of drinking water. Water had to be hauled to the camp in a large sheephed's barrel daily and rationed out six buckets to the family. Tubs and wash boilers were a common sight in the streets for the waterman to put the water in



A New Coalfield

In 1888 as the coal producing mines within the incorporated limits of Des Moines showed signs of diminishing in numbers and production. 3 alert miners sought a new location outside the city where a new coal field might be opened to supply the coal need of a growing city.

In the spring of 1889 the search ended with the discovery of coal, three miles southeast of the fairgrounds on what is now known as the Runnell's Highline. The name of the new community was to be known as 'Carbondale.' The name no doubt was derivative from the substance of coal, which is "carbon" and "dale" which is a partial geographic description of the countryside, hence we have the three syllable word "Car-bon-dale."

The possibility that coal might be found in this new location was due to the terrain; it was both hilly and level. This was the most certain way of knowing, as it was before the days of "Test Holes" and modern machinery. The judgment of the men was right, for in the summer of 1889 Mine Number 1, was sunk just one mile south of Youngstown. At a dept of 150 feet a fine vein of good quality of coal was found.

Word of the find spread far and fast, and the boom was on.

The names of those that formed the Company that sunk No. 1 have now been forgotten, but we have tried to recall those that served as Superintendents and Foremen. The Superintendents were: Mr. McKay, Tom Knox, H. Frimer, Mr. Cook and John Owens. The Mine Foremen were: James Sample, Jim Hayden, Pete Smith, Bill Murray, Chas, Logue, John Braniff, Geo, Cook, Bob Hogsette and Bill Collins.

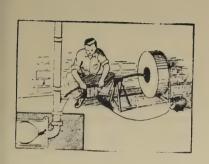
The Camp Is Born

Three and four-room houses sprang up so fast on the hillside that within a few months' time a new camp had been born and reached its maturity. Most of the houses were company owned and rented for \$6.00 and \$8.00 per month. The houses consisted of four rooms, and the size of a room was 11' x 12', which is not a very large room in comparison with the homes of today. There were no modern conveniences, such as gas, water, electricity and furnaces. The people were not used to this, so never missed them. The hardest part of the living was keeping the houses warm as the homes were built upon wooden supports instead of resting on



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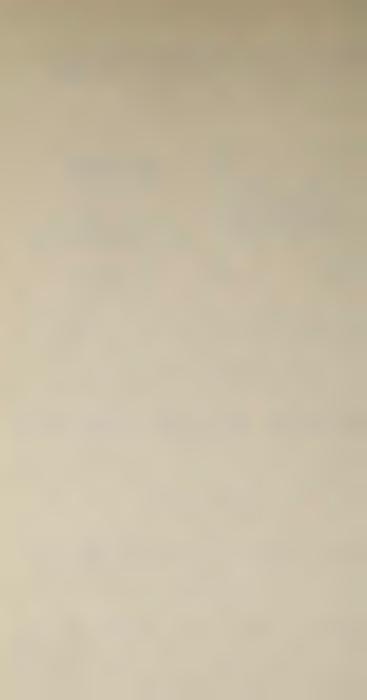
1309 MAPLE

GREETINGS

on

COMPLETION OF OLD CARBONDALE HISTORY

CARBONDALE CHURCH	Albert Kurtz, Pastor
MOTHERS' CLUB	
TROOP 171, BOY SCOUTS	
CARBONDALE SCHOOL TEACHER	S



Jack Cavanaugh was the waterman, and he never faltered in his work. Like the mailman, he was on the job rain or shine. The reason for the water shortage was that all the water was seeping into the mines.

Sinking of Mines Nos. 2, 3 and 4

The sinking of Number Two was in the year 1898 or 99, and it was about 1½ miles southeast of Number One. Tunnels had been driven from old Number One to the bottom of newly sunken Number Two. This shortened the distance of hauling the coal underground. Shortly thereafter old Number One was closed.

Number Two was also a good coal producer, and after being in prduction eight years it was found that the long underground haul of coal became too expensive. In 1904 or 05 Number Four was sunk, connecting the new mine with the entries of old Number Two. In all, over three miles of underground tunneling had taken place from old Number One to Number Two. During the life of these mines only two instances of labor trouble are recorded; one was the money panic of 1903, when the company tried to pay the miners with script instead of "gold." This strike became national in scope. The other was the "Mutton Strike" in which the miners went on strike because the Company had discharged a colored man named Mutton without cause. It was a costly strike, and E. C. Smith, the coal operator often used to say after this that living cost was high, but the price he had to pay for Mutton was too unreasonable. Never to be forgotten was that some of the mules had been taken from one mine to another without having seen the light of day for fifteen years.

The life of Mine Number Four was only about four years.

Number three was sunk in about the year of 1900 and was never connected to the other mines. The life of this mine was about eight years. It was in this mine that the explosion took place which awakened the legislature to the needs of safety laws for the miner. This explosion took place only a few weeks after the disastrous Lost Creek explosion in Appanoose County in which 21 lost their lives. The Shot Firing Law was then enacted. No lives were lost in the Carbondale Explosion but many were injured.

The company that operated the mines in the closing years was the Carbondale Fuel Company, managed and owned by E. C. Smith. The last ton of coal was hoisted in 1908. The houses sold one by one and the following summer all were gone, and the happy camp was but a memory.

The mines worked as steady in the summer months as in the winter. This was not true of other mines during the summer. The "work tomorrow" signal was six long blasts on the mine whistle

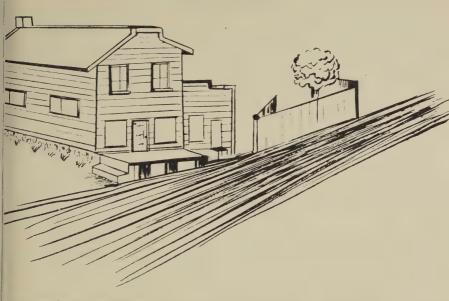


t 7 P. M. on the preceding day. "No work tomorrow" was one ng blast. The only leisure time the miner had was every other pril known as "suspension time," a period when the contract with the Company expired. The Local Union was known as No. 949. The banner of that local is still intact and is safely guarded by rank Pierick.

Like every mining community, a price in blood and life was aid for the coal mined. The following, as far as we can rememer, gave their lives in the mines or died from injuries: George Tarren, John Cavanaugh, Pete Johnson, William Necomb, John avage, — Straight, and Chas. Moll.

The Company Store

The only food market was the oid Company Store. This store was many stores in one, and sold everything, such as, drugs, food, clothing, ice, hardware, etc. Money was not the medium of exchange; the coupon book issued by the store, and deducted from the pay took its place. There were very few of the miners that had much pay to draw on pay day. The first and fifteenth of the month were estimate days (the beginning of a new pay). It was on these days that families would place orders in the store for supplies of groceries that



picture being available, this replica was drawn from memory by Roy Snook one recalling how the old store looked, agrees that it is correct in every detail, every platform porch in front. In the balmy summer evenings, it was here where the vould sit by hours discussing the questions of the day. Thomas Mathewes was the ore manager.



would last for several days. In those days inflation was unknown, and the following prices were the rule: coffee 15c, butter 17c, eggs 13c, roundsteak 15c, etc.

To the men, the store was the loafing place after working hours. Many fond memories still linger near the spot where the store was located.

Thomas Mathews was the last general manager of the store when it closed in 1908. It was also the Post Office on an R.F.D. route. The man in charge of the Meat Department was Bob Moyer. Bob was always mindful how hard it was for the families to keep meat on hot days without ice, so he would accommodate the people by opening the meat market on Sunday morning until noon. Bob was also loved by the children, as he would save scraps of meat for their dogs. Those scraps were called "dog meat." Most families had two or three dogs, so he had a big service to render to the community.

Another factor that made living easier was the big gardens raised by most families. Plenty of wild fruit, such as gooseberries, and blackberries, was found in old "Section Ten." Wild onions, greens and mushrooms were also plentiful. Most every garden was enclosed with a picket fence made from hazel brush.

Pay Days

Miners' Pay Days were always gala days of the month. Each month had two pay days. Very few had much pay to draw as it was spent in advance at the Company Store. The second and fourth Saturday of the month was pay day, and the mines only worked four hours. Not many had large pay, but everyone seemed to have enough cash to go to Des Moines. The transportation to the Fairgrounds Car Line was furnished by Dan Young and his famous "Carryall" which was a covered wagon drawn by a team of horses. When Dan was not in service, Erick Erickson would take over, as a rule his team was the faster. Those vehicles would haul a load of twenty passengers. Many trips could be made in a day, and at thirty cents a round trip, Dan and Erick would make a tidy sum. Many families had their own horse and buggies and were looked upon as the capitalistic group.

The square dance on Saturday night was held upstairs above Sweeney Pool Hall. Bill Hartshorn and Hugh Braniff were always good at calling the square dance. Often those dances drew young people from far and near as they were well advertised. Mrs. Findley and Frank Isabell did a big business serving refreshments, such as ice cream, pop, fried chicken and fish; "Hop Tea" at the pool hall was always plentiful at 25c a bottle. In our memories we can still see Grandpa Davey Hughes at the age nearly 80 years attending the dances, even though he had long passed the age of dancing.



School Days

At the writing of this brief sketch, most of the children that atended the Groundhog school are now grandparents, but they still herish the sweet memories of school days when they were learning the three R's. The teachers we will always remember were, the Diphant sisters, Miss Carrie Spoor, Miss Dolly Rhodes, Miss Brady and a Mr. McDaniels. One of the books used in the classroom was the Barnes Reader. There were no grades to be promoted into, he only promotion was from the Little Room into the Big Room which were the number of rooms in the school.

Some of the songs that were sung in the school were, America he Beautiful, Iowa Sweet Iowa, October gave a Party, Tenting onight, and Home Sweet Home. Most of the boys had to leave he school at the age of fourteen to work in the mines as Trapper boys, this always left a sad feeling. One of the boys to lose his life in the mines soon after leaving school was John Cavanaugh.

Miss Spoor is the only living teacher at the time of this writing and she never fails to attend the reunions and relive the days that regone, it is then that her former pupils have the opportunity to hank her for the good influence and instruction that has led us afely through the years. Those days were the area of Peace when to war clouds hung over the nations, such as we have in these days.



THE LITTLE ROOM

The Little Room is so known because it consisted of children in the lower grades. teachers shown are Miss Carrie Spoors and Miss Dolly Rhodes. The classes consist st, 2nd and 3rd Grades as they would be called today.





THE BIG ROOM

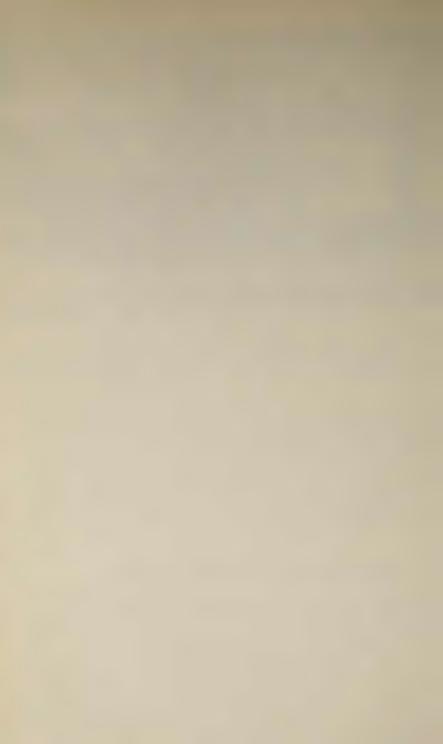
The classes here represented would be about equal to the 4th and 5th grades of toby's school. This picture was also taken about 1901, and the teachers are Miss Dolly modes and Miss Olive Oliphant.

The Civil War between th states had now been in history thirty-five years and the Spanish war was over by more than ten years. The history lessons retold the sufferings of wars and we were so grateful that we did not have to live in those days. Two veterans of the Civil War that used to tell us the stories of their hardships while fighting in the army of Abraham Lincoln, were Dad Parker and Jap Clevenger. Since those days three horrible wars have been fought by this country in order that we might remain free.

Community Entertainment

In the summer a good ball game could always be expected when the Carbondale Blues would beat the best teams in the County. The following were some of the members of that great team: Chas. and File Decker, Harver Gill. Albert Nesbitt, Bill Barke, Arthur Dunagan, Flem Russell, Robert Carr and Bill Crawford. In one game the Carbondaers beat the Des Moines Western League Team.

Box suppers and Literary debates were also popular entertainments. The girls would prepare beautifully decorated boxes filled with lunches which would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The more popular the girl, the higher price the box would bring.



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The lucky bidder would eat the lunch with the girl and have the date to take her home. It often led to courtship and marriage.

The debates were engaged in by the intellect of the community. Such questions as, which is the wettest, "Rain or Snow," or which would make the best wife, "A neat tidy crank" or "A good natured slouch" were questions debated. There was an affirmative and a negative team that would put everything they had into the battle. All would end well and everybody would go home happy.

Never to be forgotten by the young people were the coasting parties on the many hills suitable for that purpose. The hills were known by such names as: Nesbitt's Hill, Spring Hill, New Row Hill and Woskey's Hill. The fastest sleds as a rule were the home made ones.

Fishing was a sport enjoyed by most everyone. Saturday night would find the miners, with their flickering pit lamps, running their trot lines, and on Sunday morning bringing home large catches of fine channel cats. The outstanding fishermen were Nick Carr, Fred Peterson, Johnson Lewis, Frank Sloan and Carl Mattson.

No sooner would the fishing end, then would come the hunting season. Hunting was always good in old Section Ten, and the river bottoms near Hastie. Every hunter had one or two hound dogs, and what music they could make out in the woods!

Fourth of July was the big holiday of the year. Carbondale celebration was well known and drew large attendance from far and near, as it had the reputation of being the real thing. On one Fourth, excursion trains were run out from Des Moines to bring out the crowds. Those celebrations were held in Pendeltons Park near the ball grounds. Fireworks, which are now illegal, made Independence Day sound like a battlefield. Everybody, young and old, had a good time. Pony kegs were plentiful, and all looked forward to the next one.

Law and Order

Many had the mistaken idea that miners were a bunch of hoodlums with little respect for law and order. This was not true with Carbondale for it had a law enforcing machine that everybody respected. It consisted of a constable and a justice of the peace. Court was generally held in the home of the justice of the peace and as a rule it was held after work-hours so that everybody that wished to attend could do so. Sometimes the trials would last until midnight. The court did a very good job with little or no expense to the taxpayers. In very few of the trials held, did the court send any of the cases to the Polk County District Court. Most of the law violations consisted of intoxication, disturbing the peace by fighting or bootlegging.



Recalling the men that served as Justice of the Peace, were Wm. Brown, Ben. Keeney, Joe Woskey, and John Slaughter. The Constables were, T. R. Davis, Chas. Evans, Hugh Braniff, and Hiram Pierick.

One of the duties of the constable was to keep the minors out of Sweeney's pool hall, as Mr. Sweeney would have his hands full with racking the pool balls and keeping the gasoline lights burning. The dances also had to be supervised on Saturday evenings in order that too much Hop Tea was not consumed and trouble started. They also had an eye on the beer wagon that used to deliver beer on paydays. One having too much beer delivered to his home would be suspected of bootlegging. One night of the year that gave the constable a bad time was Halloween, as every kid was full of old nick and the following morning would show evidence of the night before. Well do we remember that there was always a buggy on top of old number one slag pile or an outhouse on the company store porch.

T. R. Davis was the constable most feared by the kids as he had a boy of his own that he was trying to keep out of trouble and Albert was always to be found with the gang.

The Church

Non-denominational was the church that stood at the bottom of Spring Hill in a grove of clm and oak trees. The spiritual needs were generally furnished by the Des Moines churches. Those that we remember as preaching in the church were: Rev. Peterson, Rev. Fowler, Mr. Olmsted and then the local workers. Mrs. John Kelley, John Bothic and Warren Johnson. It was through their efforts that the church was built. At this writing the old church is still intact and is being used as a barn near the school house. The Sunday School was the most important and well attended. Many happy Christmas and Easter programs were held to the children's delight.

Sometimes a treat was to be had when the Salvation Army would come out with their big brass band and gospel singers. Most everybody in the camp would turn out to hear them. The concert being over, some family would entertain them with refreshments.

As there were many Swedish families, there was also a Swedish Sunday School Class conducted by Mr. Chas. Vermie and A. F. Larson. The Swedish kids did not much enjoy it as the other kids who could not speak the language would make light of it. Mr. Vermie and A. F. Larson were good Christians, and did all that they could for the faith among their own countrymen.

Mrs. Chas. Brooks was Superintendent of the Sunday School. She was beloved by all the boys and girls for her



work. E. C. Smith the coal operator, financed the building of this church according to the information we have obtained. A Mr. Works, a good Christian and church worker, deserved much credit for influencing Mr. Smith to finance the building.

The Company Doctor

The health of the community was entrusted into the hands of the company doctor for which each family paid one dollar per month. The doctor lived in Des Moines and would visit the camp twice a week. His Office was a one-room building across the road from the company store and anyone wishing his services would have to go there. In an emergency he would come from town but it might sometimes take five or six hours to get there as his only transportation was by horse and buggy. In some cases where minor surgery was needed he might not have his instruments with him so the good doctor would take out his pocket knife and sharpen it to a razor edge and go to work. Sometimes his work was a success and sometimes it was not. Anesthetic was not used so the patient had to endure the pain that went with surgery. It was seldom that the doctor sent the patient to the hospital.

The doctor was also the dentist and did the extracting of teeth with a pair of pliers such as might be found in any garage. It was painful but better than tooth ache. Midwives were the doctor's aides in bringing the new born babes into the world. Very few of the women had the good fortune of going to a hospital for such an event. Mrs. Pete Johnson was one of the midwives.

Old fashioned remedies took the place of the medicine such as are used today. Peruna, Quinine, Sloans Liniment, and whiskey were the old standbys. The doctor was always kind and highly respected. Time has erased from memory the names of the doctors that served so faithfully.

Parker's Batch

Like the boys of all generations, there must be a night spot where gatherings could meet. At Carbondale it was at Parker's Batch. Mr. Parker was a widower living with his sons, George, Pete and Bill. The boys were always welcome. When Dad would draw his pension check, refreshments, such as popcorn, nuts, candy and cookies would always be served. Dad was a good story teller and could relate them by the hours. One of the stories he most enjoyed telling, was the one about Billy Mattson's cooking



eat hairs in his bean soup. Billy at the age of 11 was engaged as a cook for the Parkers while they were working in the mines. His wages were 50 cents a week. It was a cold day in January when the young cook was preparing a pot of bean soup, when all of a sadden he heard a cat mewing at the kitchen door. Being tenderhearted he let the cat in to get warm. The two soon became pals, and Billy thought he would improve the cat's looks by trimming his fur a little. The job was completed, and how the cat looked! Little did the cook realize that everytime he stirred the soup that great gobs of cat hair would fall from his hands into the soup.

That evening as the Parkers seated themselves at the table the fun began. First one and then another agreed that the soup was good, but that something was wrong. It was as if it had rubber in it. It just would not go down upon swallowing. The mystery deepened until Bill Parker got a big hunk of something about the size of a walnut between his teeth. He removed the object from his mouth and started to examine it, when there was a mew at the kitchen door. The next moment Pete opened the door, and in came the same cat; with his homemade haircut he looked as if he had been run over with a lawnmower. In a moment the true facts awned upon the Parker family that what they were eating was cat hair cooked in the bean soup! The facts were verified when Bill Parker tore apart the object taken from his mouth and found t to be a big wad of cat hair. The enraged Parkers lost no time n discharging the cook who was so careless about his knowledge in cooking. Dad never forgot this incident and often would tell it with great humor in the later years.

Reading Material

The Capital and Daily News were the daily papers of that day. These papers have long been out of existence. Eight or ten pages was the size of the paper, and its news items were eagerly looked for. Daily comic strips were just coming into existence. Some of the characters of the early comic strips were: The Hooligan, Buster Brown, the Katzenjammer Kids and Her Name was Maude.

Two very popular weeklies were the Pennsylvania Grit and the Saturday Evening Glade. The latter was known as the biggest liar printed. The lies generally were a hand drawn picture of some news event. On one occasion it carried a news item from Carbondale, and in it a pictue was drawn showing paved streets with eight and tenstory buildings, but every Carbondaler enjoyed it.

Perhaps the reading material that created the most interest among the boys were the five-cent novels sold by Burzecott's. The most widely read were "Buffalo Bill,"



"Young Wild West," and "Fred Fearnot." Failures of any boy to read these, stamped him in the eyes of the other boys as being a social misfit. Louis (Bull) Furgeson, the one legged boy, always had the largest collection. Preston Emory came next.

The ads that captured the attention of the young people were the show ads. This was in the days before the movies. The theatre of those days were the Foster and Grand Opera Houses. Some of the plays we still remember were, "Big Hearted Jim," "On the Bridge at Mid Night," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "McFadden Row of Flats," "Tillie Olsen," "Jessie James" and "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." A fifty cent piece would pay the admission fee to the show, pay the car fare and have fifteen cents over to spend for sandwiches and coffee. A little cash went a long way.

Memories Not Forgotten

Weddings were always a big gala event in which the entire camp took part. The teenagers conducted the shivaree which was a noisy affair made up of blowing horns, beating tin pans and other objects that would make noise. The kids' reward generally were sacks of candy, cookies or apples. The men climaxed the affair by consuming a keg of beer at the expense of the bridegroom. Everybody had enjoyed themselves and looked forward to the next wedding.

Chas. Snook was the Village Blacksmith that made the anvil sing as he fittted the shoes and shod the horses of the camp. He also repaired farm machinery and had his shop full of work from one week to another.

Chas. Mattson, was the community butcher that dressed all the pork and beef for the miners and farmers in and around Carbondale. He was an expert sausage maker and prepared the meats in many tasty dishes. Long remembered will be the bologna and wieners that he prepared.

John Kelley was also a good butcher, but not the sausage maker that Mattson was.

Most all families in the fall of the year had a big fat hog to butcher.

The only public telephone in the camp was in an outside booth at Sweeneys Pool Hall. We remember Pearl Bush and how he would ask Central how his wife's condition was at the hospital. He lid not understand that he must give the hospital number to get his information. No doubt Ed Kirk had given Pearl the instruction on how to use the phone. Pearl spoke with such a loud voice hat he could have been heard for several blocks.



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Some of the popular songs of that day were "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey," "Falling Down the Ladder Just at Noon," and "Daisies Won't Tell."

Never to be forgotten was the political fight for a seat in Congress between John T. Hull and B. F. Prouty. All political issues of the day were discussed midst loud singing and a jolly good time. John T. Hull was always the winner. The 200 or more votes at Carbondale was a big factor in deciding this bitter contest.

Another incident not to be forgotten was the time when Mose Russell bought his brother, Flem, a new suit of clothes. It was an expensive and fine looking suit, and Flem was about the proudest boy in the Camp.

On Monday morning when Mose reported at the pit head for work, he was surprised to see a group of men over at the prop pile investigating something. Mose also decided to investigate, thinking it must be some kind of accident. When he had gotten through the crowd and saw what was causing the excitement, he almost fell over with shock and anger. There in the center of the crowd stood Flem ready to report for work as a trapper boy in that brand new suit of clothes that Mose had given him just two days before! Yes, Flem was proud of that suit and intended using it for all occasions. How Mose and Flem settled this matter, we can't recall.

Carbondale also made its contribution of native sons to the Des Moines City elections. J. Westly Ash was elected to the first City Council under the Des Moines Plan of Government, and Ivar Erickson to the first council under the City Manager Plan of Government. It was forty-five years after J. W. Ash was elected that Erickson was elected to the Council, so Erickson was born about the time when Ash took his seat on the Council.

Other Carbondale sons and daughters that have made good in the business world are:

Roy Snook of the Snook Sign Service.

Joe Truman—Truman Shoe Repair.

David Larson-Dave Larson Grocery.

Harold Gustafson—Welding Service.

Jenny (Wasson) LaMar LaMar Realty Co.

John Sloan-Restaurant.

Ivar Erickson - Anderson Erickson Dairy Co.

Roy Bradford Lawn Mower Service.

David Mattson—David Mattson Company (Automotive Machine Shop)

Les Clark Commercial Office Supply Co.



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Roy Cavanaugh—Iowa Drug Co.

Hugh Sloan -Interior Decorating Co.

Mrs. Alice Keeney- Agent (Home Mutual Casualty Fire Ins. Co.)

Frank Dole-Insurance Agent.

Louis Clevenger-High School Professor, Kirksville, Mo.

Bob Moyer-Bank President at Garwin, Iowa.

Andrew Olson-Roto Rooter Service (sewer cleaner).

Carbondalers are proud of the above, and it is the wish of everyone that they may have many years of prosperity and success. To succeed in business with so many legal interferences, plus all the many high taxes and professional services required, is no small undertaking. We also know that all of the above started their business with a small amount of capital.

Mague, "

The Old Pioneers

A community history would not be complete without the names of the people that made up that community. The committee therefore, submits the following list of the pioneers that made Carbondale the greatest camp in Polk County.

It would make the list too long to enumerate the name of every person so it will be confined to families and single men and women. If any name is omitted it is unintentional, as time has crased much from our memory.

Most of the pioneers have passed away but we still cherish their memory. They were hardworking and honest people, that raised large families and contributed to the good in our State and Nation.

We wish to thank the following for helping us compile the list: Archie Day, Carl Larson, Albert Mattson, Wm. Gustafson and Mrs. Hugh Sloan. We submit the following list:

Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Anderson, Pete
Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ivor
Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard
Anderson, Carl
Ash, J. Wesley
Ash, Warren
Ash, George (widower)
Ash, Mr. and Mrs. Walter
Atnich, Dominic
Barcus, Mr. and Mrs. George
Barlow, Bill
Bothic, Mr. and Mrs. oJhn
Bothic, —
Barker, Mr. and Mrs. John
Barrett, S.



Brown, Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Borgalia, Tom Bane, Donald Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Branchi, Ace Bianchi, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bush, Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Burk, W. P. Boltin, Pete Burney, Bob Caloway, Sam Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Carlson, Frank Carpe, Lee Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carpe, Tony Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carr, Tom Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. John Clevenger, Mr. and Mrs. Jap Clay, Edward Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. William Cook, Mr. George Cole, Mr. and Mrs. James Conley, Mr. Wm. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. John Cowling, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cratty, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Crawford, James Crisinger, Mr. and Mrs. -Coleman, ---Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Dalby, George Doolittle, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Drew, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Decker, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dearschmidt, Frank Daniels, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Drenshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Devan, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas DeVan, Mr. and Mrs. Homes Dunagan, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dunagan, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Dunagan, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dunning, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Danielson, Nels Davis, Al Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davis, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Erick Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Emory, Joe Emory, Preston Erickson, Sam

Eberhart, Barney Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Engstrom, Pete Erickson, Sam Figgs, Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Chuck) Freeman, Chas. Furray, T. Flanigan, William Flanigan, Marie Finney, Mr. and Mrs. aJck Findley, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fisher, Joe Fisher, William Field, Perry Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Gust Glenn, Bill and Mose Green, Martin Gill, Harvey Gill, George Green, Nathen Gallagher, Dick Gallaway, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Grandquist, Mr. and Mrs. Gust Grandquist, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gustafson, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Gustafson, Fred Gallagher, Jack Grandquist, Albert Grandquist, Mr. and Mrs. John Graves, Ed Gritten, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grant, Wm. Hamilton, Doc Hammeline, Chas. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Harrison, George Hartshorn, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harvey, Thomas Henry, Sam Heathcote, Mr. and Mrs. John Herman, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hill, John Hogsett, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hanstrom, Mr. and Mrs. John Hollins, Yank Hoskins, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoops, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hughes, Davey Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Herman, Bill (Russian) Hershman, Mr. and Mrs. --Isabel, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. August Johnson, N. A. (Cap) Johnson, Parson Johnson, Chas. (Cap) Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Joplin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Jones, Mr. and Mrs. James



Jones, Doodle Johnson, Smokey Keeney, Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. John Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Katon, Mr. and Mrs. -Knouse, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Kurtz, Mr. and Mrs. John Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Keyes, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Willian, Mr. and Mrs. Mose Lewis, John Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Logan, J. W. Lobe, Chas. Linn, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Luick, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Longstaff, Mr. and Mrs. George Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lammy, Wesley Lach, Gust Legue, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. La Near, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Lawson, Harvey Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. William Lloyd, John Larson, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Larson, Carl Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mattson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Meek, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Miller, Bily Meek, William Mencek, George Malone, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mead, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mikesell, C. Mispel, Harry Miller, Joseph Mooney, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Moll, Charles Moyer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moline, Mr. and Mrs. William Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Murray, Mr. and Mrs. John Myers, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Murray, Bill Mooney, Mr. and Mrs. James Murray, George Mosely, Wm. McMurray, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. McGowen, Garnet McHenry, Charles McAnnaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Bill McAnnaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Barney McMurray, Hugh McGovern, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Noble, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Naylor, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nesbitt, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. John Nesbitt, Thomas

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Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. George
Parker, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. (Dad) Pinegar, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pinegar, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pinegar, Mr. and Mrs. Jap Pierick, Mrs. — (widow) Porter, Sherman Pendelton, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Page, Mr. and Mrs. George Pritchard, Mr. and Mrs. Quail, John Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Mose Russell, Flem Rood, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rodine, Mr. and Mrs. iVctor Robinson, Christe Ramasko, John Ridgeway, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ridgeway, Mr. and Mrs. John Ridgeway, Joseph Ridgeway, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. (Bill) Scott, Dave Sackerson, oJhn Scott, Mr. and Mrs. James Sandford, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Scott, Charles Savage, John Saunder, Mr. and Mrs. James Sample, Mr. and Mrs. James Scutchlow, Mr. — Shebeck, Mr. and Mrs. John Shepard, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shepard, Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Shepard, Wesley Shortell, Mr. — Simulation of the state of the Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Snook, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sloan, Mr. and Mrs. John Slaughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, Joseph Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah



Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Smith, John Snook, John Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sorter, James Spivak, James Stone, Edward Stevens, Free Stevenson, Martin Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Straight, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Straughter, John Straughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lud Summers, Dave Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Swatta, Joe Sweeney, Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Sweeney, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Talley, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Taylor, Deacon Tea, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Thoren, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thoren, Mr. and Mrs. John Thoren, Mr. and Mrs. Claus Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Tingle, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tingle, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Toomey, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Tracey, Joe Truman, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Vance, Mr. —

Van Sickle, D. C. Vermie, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Vermie, Mr .and Mrs. John viggers, Anna Vinstrand, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. George Walker, Scott Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. George Williams, Daniel Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Warnock, Mr. and Mrs. Al Warren, Mr. and Mrs. George Wasson, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Watters, Mr. and Mrs. George Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Watson, Doc Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wells, Mr. and Mrs. -Westman, Mr. and Mrs. Frank White, Mr. and Mrs. Charles White, Lee Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Willis, John Woody, Mr. ---Woolery, Tom Woskey, Mrs. —— (widow) Woskey, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Young, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Youles, Frank Youtes, Mr. and Mrs. Tony

Welcome to the Reunion

What is friendship, but golden links that build a chain with many a passing year. As a child, when we went barefooted, and were carefree, we thought of our friends as playmates. As the years passed, our playmates grew into friends, and all too quickly, our friends were only memories. We only see them occasionally, and then we have time only to exchange greetings, and ask how each other's family are, but there is always the love and memories of childhood days, and the good times we had together, to remember. When we are home with our family, we often tell about the things that happened when we were children at school. The schoolhouse has always remained a landmark in Carbondale. Of course it has changed, and some of the parts are missing, that were there at one time. But so have the people changed. Time changes all things, Some of our dearest friends have passed away. Their memories are dear, and as the golden chain lengthens, we have acquired new friends. No, they aren't the same, but you can't compare friends any more than you can com-



pare jewels such as diamonds, rubies, amethysts, and pearls. They are all beautiful in their own way. So is

our friendships,

As we all meet again this year, we know not which one of us will pass on to his Heavenly home by 1953, but the joy of the years, and the memories of our youth, and the happiness of being together, are with us today. With reverence in our hearts, we greet each one that is here, always remembering those who have passed on. So the golden chain lengthens, as our friendships are linked closer together, and our hearts are warm with thankfulness, that we can shake each other's hand again, and converse together, reminiscing of the days gone by. So to each friend, old and new, we welcome them all to Carbondale, hoping that our friendship chain will lengthen, and grow stronger as the years go by.

-Mrs. Neota Gustafson

Reunion

The credit for starting the Carbondale Reunion should go to Pen Keeney and Louis Clevenger. It was their idea of how pleasant it would be to once more meet the oldtimers and relive the days



This Reunion picture was taken in 1951, showing the happy gathering after a fine potluck dinner and community sing. Meeting old friends not seen in years and reliving the old days makes it a gala affair. Many of the oldtimers will not be at many more of these gatherings so try and meet them soon.



that were past and gone. The first reunion was held in 1940 at Union Park, and to their surprise over 150 attended. All had such a good time that it was decided to make it an annual affair. A committee was elected to supervise and arrange future reunions. The next two reunions were held at Union Park, and it was then decided that in the future we should meet in Carbondale at the old schoolhouse.

During World War II, the reunion was discontinued because of the gasoline shortage and food rationing. In 1946 it was again revived, and to the astonishment of all, the interest and attendance was greater than before the war.

The date for the reunion has been set for the second Sunday of June each year and the place is the schoolhouse. A little news item in the Tribune and weekly papers keep the public informed. Those attending the reunion register their names and addresses. Then the Secretary has a mailing list from which she can send notices and programs.

Those who have served so faithfully are: Mrs. Dave Meek, Mrs. Donald Warnock, and our present Secretary, Mrs. Chas. F. Sheeler.

The committee that has served unselfishly from year to year in arranging the programs are as following: Ben Keeney, Chas. Cook, Wm. Gustifson, Wm. Mattson, Hugh Sloan, George Pierick, Mrs. Raymond Deacker, Mrs. Chas. F. Sheeler, Bessie Warnock, Oscar Gustafson, and Emil Gustafson.

At this writing the following members of the committee have passed away, Ben Keeney, Mrs. Dave Meeks, Oscar Gustafson and Bessie Warnock.

The program starts with a potluck dinner in the shade of the hig oak trees that stand on the school grounds. Following the dinner comes a short business session in which small items of business is taken care of. After this comes a very impressive Memorial Service to honor those who have passed away during the year. Sometimes the list is large and may contain the names of as many as nineteen.

It is a very beautiful and yet a sad service. The kiddies have their games and contests which are very amusing. A Community Sing is then participated in by all. The old songs are used to keep the oldtime spirit intact. The adults also enjoy the quiz programs in which they can all take part. Someone always wins a prize.

Prizes are also awarded the oldest man and oldest woman, the oldest couple, and those that came the longest distance to attend the reunion. The program ended. Then the balance of the day is spent in visiting and getting reacquainted. Some linger until the sun is almost down. A free will collection is taken which is used to defray the expenses of the next reunion.



One of the faithful attendants of the reunion is Mrs. Ida Ericksen of Ogden, Iowa, who has been confined to a wheelchair for over twenty-five years. In her cheerful frame of mind she is a great asset to all of the reunions.

To our Secretaries go much credit for the work they have performed in all the correspondence that was necessary to put on a reunion.

Thanks to Bill Mattson

In 1950, at a committee meeting, Mrs. Chas. Sheeler suggested that a fine tribute to the old pioneers would be a history of old Carbondale. It would also serve as a great source of information for the future generations, who are always inquiring about old Carbondale. The idea met with unanimous approval of the committee, and Bill Mattson stated we must work toward this end, and not give up until the task is accomplished.

Bill then started gathering material and writing the chapters found herein. It was quite an undertaking, he stated, and had to be written and rewritten many times before it would look and sound worthwhile. Many phone calls and much correspondence had to be made before he had the information wanted. He also solicited our good friends, the business men, for advertisements for which to pay for the printing of the book.

The Committee and all Carbondalers hereby wish to thank and express our deepest appreciation to Bill Mattson for his untiring efforts and work in making this history possible.

Many of his old friends may want to know what his life's work has been since the closing of Old Carbondale. After leaving the mines he entered the Des Moines Fire Department where he served as a firefighter for 28 years.

In 1928 he was sent to Chicago Fire School, and came back with the rank of Drill Master and served in that capacity for some years. He retired from the Department in 1942, with the rank of Lieutenant.

He also is a veteran of World War I.



Greetings and Best Wishes

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